

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-23 were pending in this case. In this amendment claims 1, 4-7, 10-17, 19-23 are cancelled, and claims 2, 3, 8, 9, and 18 have been amended. Following this amendment, claims 2, 3, 8, 9, and 18 remain pending.

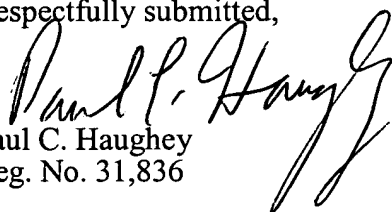
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 8, 9, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and they have been so rewritten.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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